

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An antibody which is comprised of the amino acid sequence of each CDR shown below such that the antibody binds ~~is capable of binding~~ to the CD23 (FCRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells:

RSSKSLLY KDGKTYLN	CDRL1 (SEQ ID NO:3),
LMSTRAS	CDRL2 (SEQ ID NO:5),
QQLVEYPFT	CDRL3 (SEQ ID NO:7),
GYWMS	CDRH1 (SEQ ID NO:9),
EIRLKSDNYATHYAESVKG	CDRH2 (SEQ ID NO:11), and
FID	CDRH3 (SEQ ID NO:13).

2. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 1 which binds to CD23 with an affinity constant equal to or greater than 1×10^9 Ka Mol⁻¹.

3. (previously presented) An antibody which competitively inhibits the binding of an antibody having the CDR sequences set out in claim 1, to the CD23 (FCRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells.

4. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 1 which is a chimeric antibody.

5. (previously presented) An antibody according to claim 1 which is a humanised antibody.

6. (currently amended) An antibody according to claim 1 in which the framework of the heavy chain includes the amino acid residues from the murine antibody at any of positions 49, 66, 76, 77 and 94 by the Kabat numbering system.

7. (currently amended) An antibody according to claim 1 in which the framework of the light chain included the amino acid residues from the murine antibody at position 64 by the Kabat numbering system.

8. (currently amended) An antibody which binds to the CD23 (FCRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells comprising one or both of the amino acid sequences encoded by the nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:1 and 2.

9. (currently amended) An antibody which binds to the CD23 (FCRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells comprising one or both of the amino acid sequences encoded by the nucleotide sequences according to SEQ ID NOS:17 and 18.

10. (previously amended) An antibody according to claim 1 in which the constant region contains Ala at position 235 and Ala at position 237 by the Kabat numbering system.

Claim 11 (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of a disorder selected from the group consisting of arthritis, lupus erythematosus, Hashimotos thyroiditis, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, uveitis, dermatitis, psoriasis, urticaria, nephrotic syndrome, glomerulonephritis, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, Sjogren's syndrome, allergies, allergic asthma, intrinsic asthma, acute asthmatic exacerbation, rhinitis, eczema, GVH, COPD, insulinitis, bronchitis (particularly chronic bronchitis), diabetes (particularly Type 1 diabetes), and B-cell malignancies; comprising administration of an antibody according to claim 1.

Claims 13-17 (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an antibody as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

19. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an antibody as defined in claim 1 in combination with an immunomodulatory or anti-inflammatory agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

20. (previously presented) A method of selecting an inhibitory antibody comprising:

- (a) providing an antibody according to claim 1 specific for CD23 and
- (b) selecting an inhibitory antibody which competes with said CD23-specific antibody for binding to CD23.

21. (new) An antibody which competitively inhibits binding of an antibody according to claim 8, to the CD23 (FCRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells.

22. (new) An antibody which competitively inhibits binding of an antibody according to claim 9, to the CD23 (FCRII) type II molecule expressed on haematopoietic cells.